NORTH CENTRAL RTD

2024

Popular Annual Financial Report

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT 3

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....6

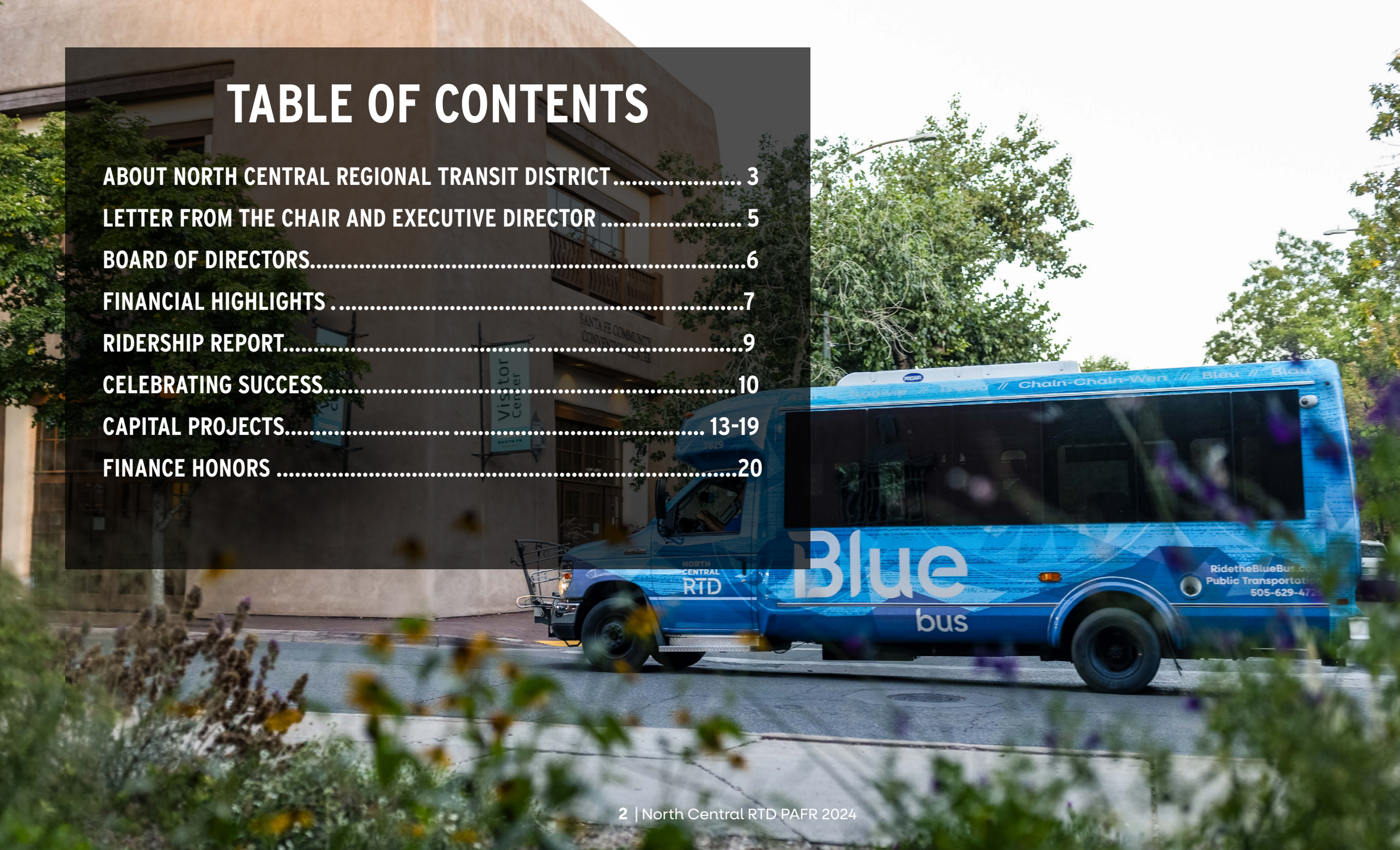
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 7

RIDERSHIP REPORT.....9

CELEBRATING SUCCESS.....10

CAPITAL PROJECTS..... 13-19

FINANCE HONORS 20



NORTH CENTRAL RTD | Blue bus

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the North Central Regional Transit District is to improve communities' quality of life by providing a resilient, equitable, and effective public transportation system.

VISION

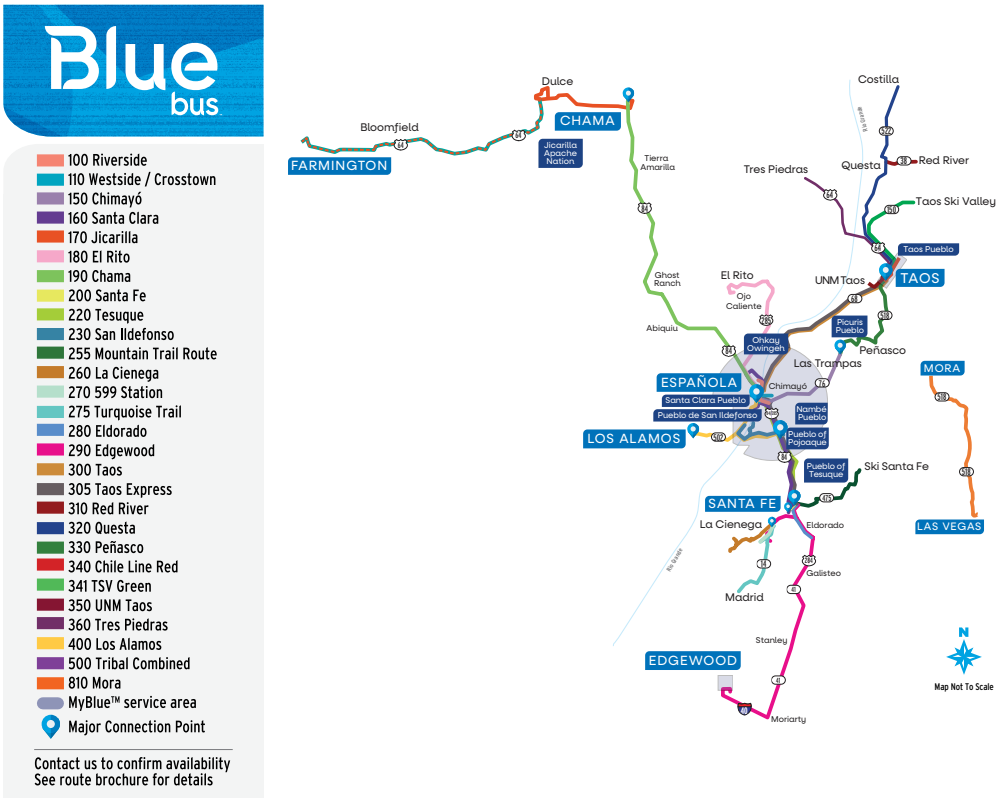
To be a mobility leader connecting people, communities, and the region through seamless, integrated, and innovative mobility options for the betterment of our region.

About North Central Regional Transit District

Celebrating 20 years of service in 2024, The North Central Regional Transit District began service in 2007. With headquarters in Española, New Mexico, The North Central Regional Transit District "Blue Bus™ connects communities, pueblos, and tribes across 10,000 square miles throughout north central New Mexico, serving residents in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Taos, and Los Alamos counties as well as eight Northern Pueblos and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Additional services connect communities in San Juan, Mora, and San Miguel Counties. The District operates fare-free Blue Bus™ service and MyBlue™, an app-based on-demand ridesharing service in Española, Taos and Edgewood for $1 per trip. The District also provides free on-demand paratransit/ADA services for medically qualified riders. Further expanding its reach, the Blue Bus provides riders with connections to New Mexico Rail Runner, Santa Fe Trails, NMDOT Park and Ride, Los Alamos Atomic City Transit, Po' Pay Messenger Service and Red River Miner's Transit. All buses are ADA accessible and equipped with bicycle racks.

- 29 Blue Bus™ fixed routes
- One seasonal bus route serving Taos Ski Valley
- One contracted Blue Bus™ route from Mora to Las Vegas
- Taos Express weekend service from Santa Fe to Taos
- Four MyBlue™ on demand rideshare zones in Española, Taos, Pojoaque-Nambé and Edgewood

This map also shows NMDOT Park & Ride and New Mexico Rail Runner Express services that operate in the four-county area. MyBlue™ rideshare service zones include Taos, Española, Pojoaque-Nambé and Edgewood.



Letter from the Chair and Executive Director

We are delighted to present the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the Fiscal Year 2024. This report offers a concise overview of the District's organizational structure, services, significant initiatives, financial performance, and economic outlook, making it accessible to readers without a technical background in accounting or finance.
This report serves as a testament to our unwavering commitment to safeguarding the District's long-term financial stability. It provides a summary of the financial activities of the District's funds, which are further detailed in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). Unlike the ACFR, the PAFR is unaudited and does not include all reported funds or comprehensive financial disclosures for the fiscal year. While the PAFR does not replace the ACFR, it offers a valuable snapshot of the District's financial performance.

A copy of the ACFR can be found in the Reports section under the "About Us" tab at www.ncrtd.org.

We are honored to announce that the District has once again been recognized for its exceptional financial reporting and management practices. For the ninth consecutive year, the District has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its annual budget for the fiscal year 2024, which commenced on July 1, 2023, and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Annual Comprehensive Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. These awards further solidify the District's position as a leader in financial reporting and management in New Mexico and the nation. In addition to these accolades, the District has again been recognized for its Popular Annual Financial Reporr for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, for the sixth consecutive year. These awards are presented by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and are a testament to the District's commitment to transparency and accountability in its financial reporting practices.

The fiscal year 2024, which ran from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, marked a transitional period for the District, as it navigated the challenges and continued recovery from the pandemic. Despite these obstacles, our staff demonstrated remarkable integrity, professionalism, and dedication to public service. They continued to provide uninterrupted and crucial transportation services to the four-county region, particularly to those who rely on transit for essential services such as work, medical care, and access to food and basic necessities.

The District serves a diverse population of 289,292 citizens across 74 communities, and our employees have consistently demonstrated their ability to meet the needs of our community. Their commitment to providing exceptional service has been instrumental in ensuring that our residents have access to the transportation they need to thrive.

The District, guided by the Board, reaffirmed its strength, both financially and operationally. Despite the challenges, the District remained steadfast in its long-term financial and strategic approach to managing resources and implementing its capital investment program. This included:

- Commenced the construction of a $15.9 million Operations and Maintenance Facility in Taos.
- Completing the design for the ~$10.5 renovation, remodel and expansion of the Jim West Regional Transit Center in Española.
- Commenced the design for a 3-acre work force housing project.
- Acquired 10 electric vans which were placed into My Blue Micro Transit service in Española and Taos.
- Ordered 2 Diesel Electric Hybrid 35-foot buses.

These are just a few highlights of the accomplishments detailed in this report. We eagerly anticipate the upcoming year as we embark on a transformative period for transit services in northern New Mexico.

Best Regards,

North Central Regional Transit District

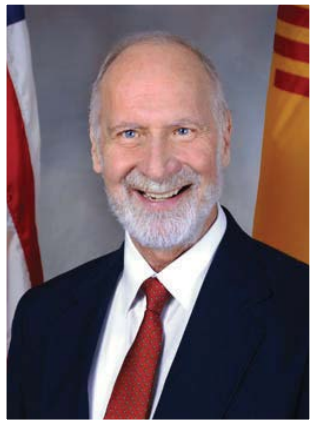
Lee A. Garcia
Chairman and Santa Fe City Councilor

Anthony J. Mortillaro
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair
Lee A. Garcia
Councilor
City of Santa Fe

Alternate
Gabrielle N. Chavez
Transit Director of Administration



Vice Chair
Hank Hughes
Comissioner
Santa Fe County

Alternate
Camilla Bustamante
Comissioner

Secretary/Treasurer
Melanee Hand
Councilor
Los Alamos County

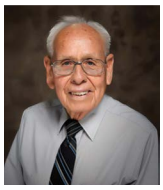
Alternate
James Barela
Transit Division Manager

To Be Announced
Village of Chama

Alternate
To Be Announced

Mayor
Ken Brennan
Town of Edgewood

Alternate
Filandro R. Anaya
Commissioner



Councilor
Pedro Valdez
City of Española

Alternate
Felicia Archuleta-Toya
Councilor

Lieutenant Governor
Natividad Herrera
Nambé Pueblo

Alternate
John R. Vigil
Roads &
Transportation
Manager

Transportation Public
Works Director
Ben Lujan
Ohkay Owingeh

Alternate
Lucia Sanchez
Planning &
Transportation
& Grants Administrator

To Be Announced
Pueblo of Pojoaque

Alternate
Jeff Montoya
Special Projects

To Be Announced
Village of Questa

Alternate
To Be Announced

Commissioner
Alex M. Naranjo
Rio Arriba County

Alternate
Linda J. Padilla
Deputy County
Manager

Council Representative
Raymond Martinez
Pueblo de
San Ildefonso

Alternate
To Be Announced

Tribal Sheriff
Donald Suazo
Santa Clara Pueblo

Alternate
Suzette A. Shije
Tribal Transportation
Program Director

Commissioner
Ronald Mascareñas
Taos County

Alternate
Darlene Vigil
Commissioner

Councilor
Genevieve Oswald
Town of Taos

Alternate
To Be Announced

To Be Announced
Village of Taos
Ski Valley

Alternate
Jalmar Bowen
Building Inspector

To Be Announced
Pueblo of Tesuque

Alternate
Brenda Atencio
Interim
Transportation
Director

Ex Officio Member: Dewey Cave, Rio Metro RTD, Alternate Elizabeth Carter

Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Highlights

This Annual Report contains summarized financial information taken in part from the North Central Regional Transit District's (NCRTD's) FY 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which is published separately.

This Popular Annual Financial Report is a summary created for general readership to inform those without financial and/or accounting background and as such it does not contain all the information available in the District's ACFR.

Users desiring additional or more comprehensive information such as financial information presented in accrual method, by classification, Management's Discussion Analysis and/or Audited Financial statements please refer to the ACFR.

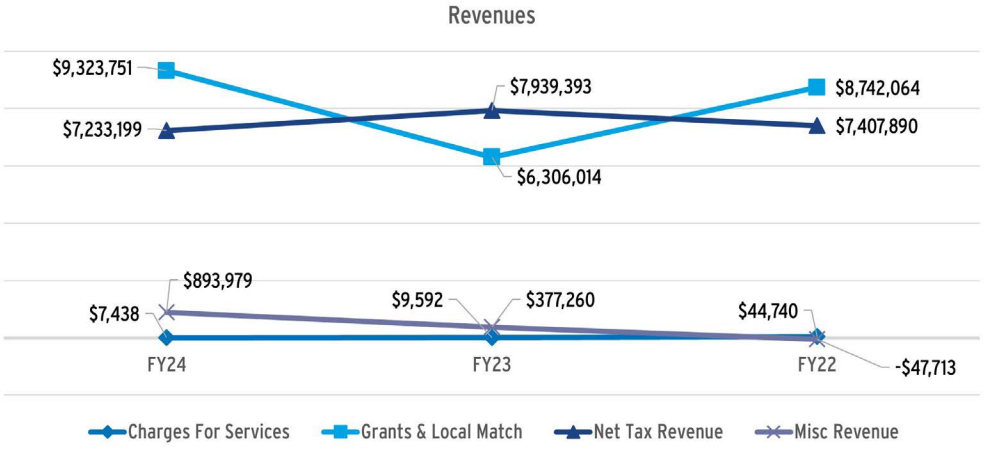
The FY 2024 ACFR is available at District's headquarters building in Española and/or the District's website at www.ncrtd.org (in the Reports section under the About Us tab). The Financial records and statements are fairly and accurately presented in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Budget

On June 2, 2023, the District adopted a balanced operating budget for Fiscal Year 2024 of $45,401,264 million. Revenues received during the 2024 Fiscal Year were $17,458,367 vs. $9,885,053* of expenses incurred. This means that the District received $7,573,314 more than it spent.

Revenues

For Fiscal Year 2024 the District received revenues in the amount of $17,458,367. The revenues were received from the following sources: Federal and State grants (47.63%), net Transit Gross Receipt Taxes (41.43%), investment income (5.11%) and miscellaneous sources (5.84%). The increase in revenue during FY2024 is primarily related to a increase in the grant reimbursements for capital expenditures.



	FY24	FY23	FY22
Charges For Services	$7,438	$9,592	$44,740
Grants & Local Match	$9,323,751	$6,306,014	$8,742,064
Net Tax Revenue	$7,233,199	$7,939,393	$7,407,890
Misc Revenue	$893,979	$377,260	-$47,713
Total	$17,458,367	$14,632,259	$16,146,981

Charges For Services Grants & Local Match Net Tax Revenue Misc Revenue

Expenses

Expenses incurred during Fiscal Year 2024 totaled $9,885,053 consisting of the following: Personnel services salaries (62.58%), GRT Contributions to other Transit Agencies is shown as contra revenue , Depreciation and amortization (14.95%), Vehicle Maintenance and Repair, (5.82%) and Other Operating Expenses (16.65%).**

The largest expenditure category is Personnel Services. Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) contributions made to other Transit agencies that provide services within the District's service area such as: the New Mexico Rail Runner Express, Santa Fe Trails and Atomic City Transit in Los Alamos County followed by personnel services salaries and Capital is recognized as contra revenue.

The increase in expenses is net effect of increases in salaries, benefits.

	FY24	FY23	FY22
Personnel Services	$6,186,318	$4,979,337	$4,116,001
Depreciation	$1,477,528	$1,512,717	$990,113
Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	$575,304	$823,435	$618,800
Other	$1,645,903	$1,622,162	$1,249,115
Total	$9,885,053	$8,937,651	$6,974,029

Overall

For the Fiscal Year 2024 ending June 30, 2024, Jaramillo Accounting Group LLC, the District's external auditors, expressed an unmodified opinion which is the best opinion that can be received (often referred to as a 'clean' audit).

The NCRTD Finance department oversees and handles all financial aspects of the District that is inclusive of Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll and maintaining the General Ledger. The Finance Department is also responsible for all the aspects of the District's financial obligations and reporting in relation to grants compliance and procurements.

The District's financial status continues to improve with significant investment in capital including both infrastructure and rolling stock, along with increases in revenue.

A high standard of excellence, fiscal responsibility and values drives the District's Finance Department. The goal of the department is to provide outstanding levels of support and timely and cost-effective service and products while conforming to the highest level of Ethical standards.

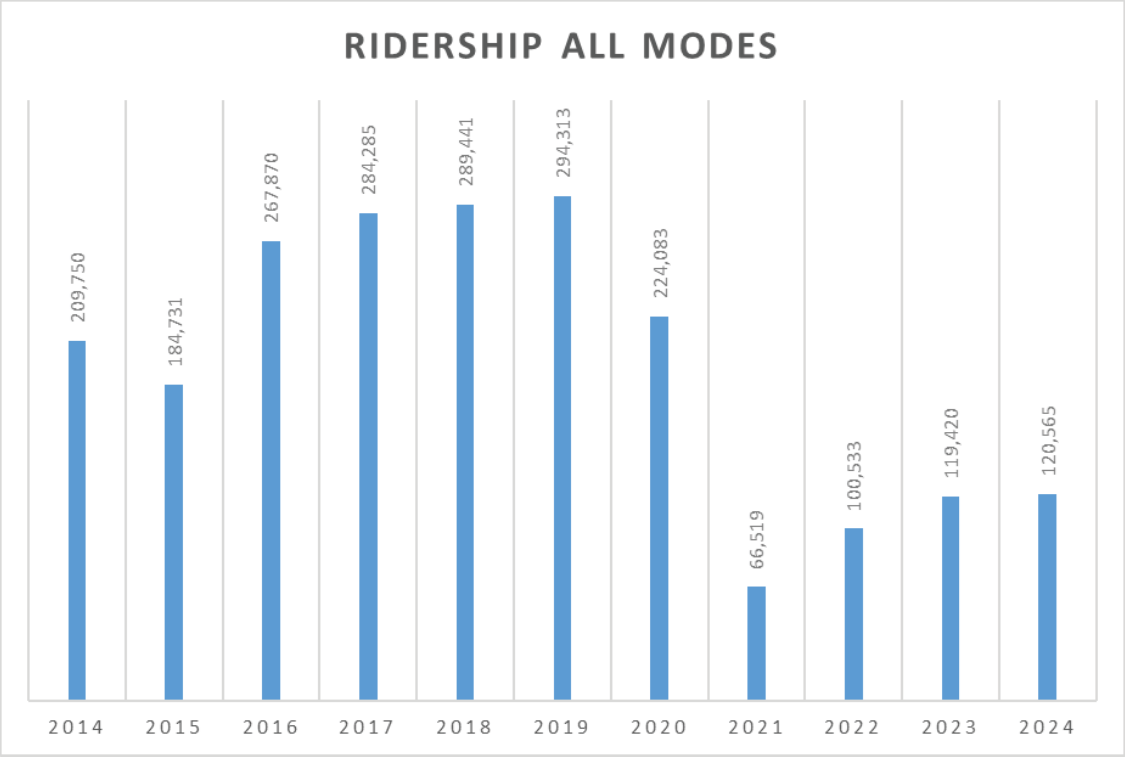
* The NCRTD's ACFR is presented under the accrual basis of accounting method in which revenues are recognized when earned and measurable and expenses are recognized when incurred.

Ridership and Recruitment Improving

Ridership across all funded Blue Bus Services continued to improve in this fiscal year. However, Ridership on District-operated routes was flat from last year, with a 1% increase in trips. On NCRTD funded routes – those transit services that NCRTD allocates annual funding to, there was an 188% increase – leading to a combined 70% increase in trips. NCRTD provides funding to operate commuter routes for Santa Fe Trails, the Rio Metro Transit District RailRunner, and Los Alamos Atomic City Transit.

Recruiting efforts to reduce the District's shortage of drivers proved successful in the fiscal year leading to the hiring of 24 additional drivers. This allowed the District to restore previously reduced or suspended routes across the District due to the pandemic, which improved overall ridership. The graph below shows historical ridership over a 10-year period.

The graph below shows NCRTD historical ridership over a 10 year period.



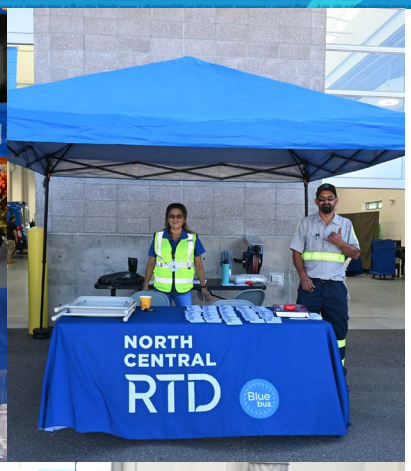
10 Year Total: 2,161,510

Celebrating Success in 2024

BLUE BUS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

The District celebrated its 20th anniversary with a special event at the District's Jim West Regional Transit Center. The North Central Regional Transit District was signed into law by Governor Bill Richardson and began service in 2007. In 2008, the public in the four-county region approved a regional gross receipts tax of 1/8 of one percent that provides the funding for services. Since service began, there have been more than 9.5 million passenger trips provided and funded.

(Continued) Celebrating Success in 2024



"We are so proud of everyone who contributed to our success over the years," said Anthony Mortillaro, NCRTD Executive Director. "We have provided needed transportation to a variety of customers – from the elderly, to veterans, to students, to people wanting to take public transit instead of driving. It is a true community service, and we are looking forward to what will evolve in the next 20 years."

BLUE BUS WINS 2024 COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OF THE YEAR AWARD

The District was honored in June to receive the prestigious 2024 Community Transit System of the Year Award - Small System, presented by the Community Transit Association of America (CTAA). The award ceremony took place at CTAA's annual Expo held in West Palm Beach, Florida. The honor marks the first such award from CTAA to any New Mexico public transportation system. The Community Transit System of the Year Award recognized the District's outstanding contributions and commitment to providing innovative, accessible, and responsive transportation services to rural communities with populations of 50,000 and below. The national award underscores NCRTD's dedication to meeting the diverse needs of its customers and communities while actively fostering collaboration and partnerships to enhance transportation accessibility and options. NCRTD's exemplary initiatives and achievements that led to this prestigious recognition include:

- Providing innovative and creative services in the community
- Being responsive to its customers and community needs
- Coordinating and collaborating with other public and special services transportation
- Helping the community accomplish their goals
- Building public and private partnerships
- Providing accessible transportation services
- Building transportation alternatives

CTAA AWARD WINNER
Blue bus
North Central RTD, New Mexico
2024 COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OF THE YEAR - SMALL SYSTEM
COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Capital Projects
Expanding Infrastructure and Operational Facilities

ESPAÑOLA ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES EXPANSION

The District began a significant $10.5 million investment in 2024 to expand and update the Jim West Regional Transit Center in Española, the District's Administrative headquarters since 2012. A total of $11.9 in federal and state funding is available to build the project. The expansion is needed to accommodate the need for more administrative space for operations and administrative staff as the District expands its services. Construction is anticipated to commence in late 2025, with a remodeling of a former maintenance bay into office space including break rooms and support facilities for drivers. The project will update electrical and mechanical systems in the remainder of the building.

TAOS MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS FACILITY

Construction on the $17 million Taos Maintenance and Operations Facility is underway – on time and on budget – with completion expected by April 2025. The existing Taos facility has become outdated and is too small to accommodate the current fleet and additional improvements planned for the Taos area. The facility will include 7,200 square feet of administrative space and 10,800 square feet of maintenance space. The site will include administrative offices, employee support facilities, vehicle maintenance and repair bays, traditional and electric vehicle fueling stations and space for potential future workforce housing.

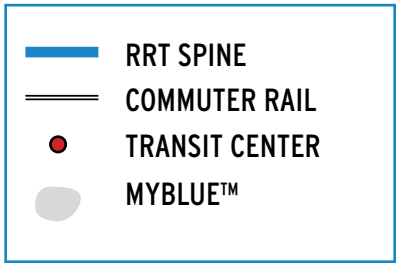
Pioneering Rural Rapid Transit

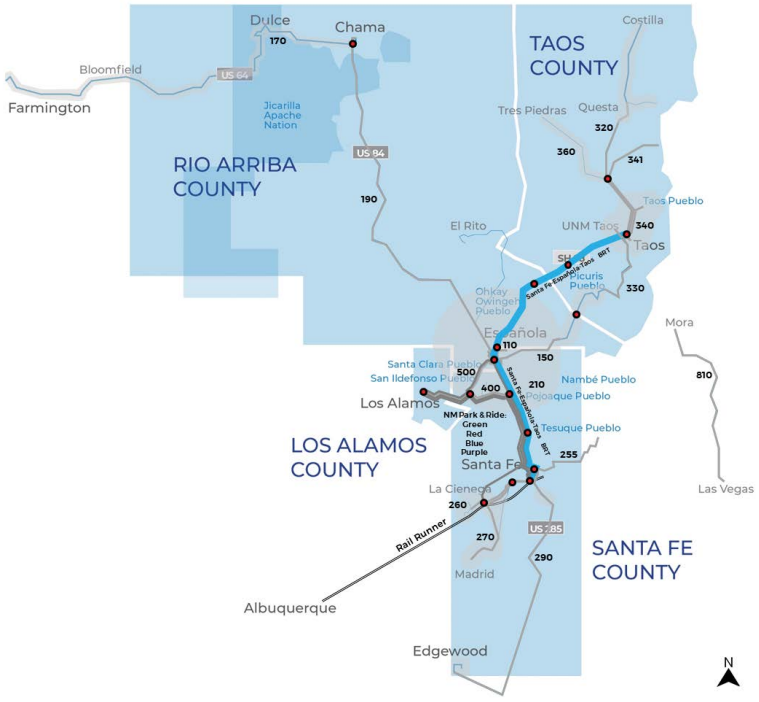
The District is spearheading the first phase of its Rural Rapid Transit (RRT) network with $9.5 million in federal funding.

Key features include:

- Seven Mobility Hubs: Strategically located to optimize service coverage.
- Seven Electric Hybrid Diesel Buses: Introducing eco-friendly options for long-distance travel.
- Enhanced Service Frequency: Providing seven-day-a-week, high-frequency service between Taos and Santa Fe.

The project was made possible by a $9.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. This project will necessitate hiring 10-14 additional employees and positions NCRTD as a leader in rural transit innovation.





Advancing Zero-Emissions Initiatives

North Central RTD's 20-Year, $245 Million Zero Emissions Bus Plan has gained momentum with the following milestones:

- Acquisition of 10 Ford E-Transit Vehicles.
- Ordering two Hybrid Electric Diesel Buses.
- Plans to procure six new battery-electric buses for Taos and Española.

These efforts align with our commitment to reducing environmental impact and transitioning to sustainable transit solutions.

Enhancing Passenger Experience and Communication

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to progress in hiring additional drivers over the past several months, the District was pleased to announce in August the restoration of previously reduced or suspended bus routes across the District, including key routes in Taos, Española, Red River and Chimayó. Additional service was added to the popular Mountain Trail route service to Santa Fe National Forest, Ski Santa Fe and Hyde Memorial State Park.

EXPANDING MYBLUE™ SERVICE TO EDGEWOOD

The District announced the launch of its MyBlue™ ridesharing service in Edgewood, New Mexico, in October. The new service will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, providing residents with a convenient and affordable transportation option within the Edgewood MyBlue™ zone. MyBlue™ now operates in four zones across the District, including Española, Nambé-Pojoaque, and Taos, with plans for additional zones in the future.

PARK AND RIDE LOT DEVELOPMENT

Plans are underway for a $1.8 million Park and Ride lot along Silkey-Blue Bus Way. The project, slated for late FY 2025, includes restroom facilities and electronic passenger information kiosks to enhance commuter convenience.

Supporting Community Needs

WORKFORCE HOUSING AND DAY CARE

Adjacent to our Jim West headquarters, NCRTD is making progress in the design for a $8 million workforce housing project featuring 14 units that includes plans for a day care center. The initiative aims to support employees and assist in recruiting new employees to the District. It is not yet fully funded. In 2024 the District received $46,000 in Capital Outlay funds from the NM Legislature and $500,000 from the Department of Finance and Administration, which helped fund design costs. A funding submission will be made in 2025 to our legislators from Rio Arriba County and also a request to the Governor's Office.

SANTA FE OPERATIONS FACILITY

A recently completed study has identified a preferred site near the 599 Rail Runner station for a future light maintenance and vehicle storage facility in Santa Fe. The facility is needed to accommodate future anticipated growth in Santa Fe. The District currently utilizes a small parcel on the City of Santa transit system's parking lot to park vehicles.

Artist Rendering

CHAMA BUS STORAGE FACILITY

The District is exploring potential sites in Chama to develop a new bus storage and operations facility.

JICARILLA ROUTE REST BREAK FACILITY

With a $630,000 grant, North Central RTD will construct a break and restroom facility in Navajo City, serving the 170 Jicarilla Route. The facility will accommodate both passengers and drivers making the long journey between Chama, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Bloomfield and Farmington.

Planning and Innovation

BUS STOP DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Planning Department completed a comprehensive Bus Stop and Amenities Design Guidelines document. The Guidelines will:

- Provide a framework for prioritizing how we invest in bus stop improvements
- Improve bus stop accessibility for all transit riders
- Help coordinate bus stops for new transit services such as Rural Rapid Transit and other specialized transit facilities to improve service and access
- Help coordinate guidelines across our communities including local and tribal communities
- Address maintenance, construction, and coordination responsibilities to ensure a great bus stop experience across our service area

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE FEASIBILITY STUDY

A study was completed that evaluated the potential for autonomous vehicle (AV) integration into public transit. A pilot program may soon launch in the Santa Fe area, showcasing NCRTD's commitment to innovation.

SYSTEM UPGRADES AND CUSTOMER FOCUS

Key upcoming initiatives include:

- Issuing a call for proposals to update the Computer-Aided Dispatch/Automatic Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) systems.
- Developing a new customer service and experience program.
- Conducting compensation, classification, and fiscal sustainability studies.

Finance Honors

For the ninth consecutive year, the District has been awarded the distinguished Triple Crown Award from Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The District was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, and GFOA's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for its Popular Annual Financial Report. Each award program recognizes governments that produce reports which communicate their financial stories in a transparent manner and meet applicable standards.

"We are honored to receive these awards from GFOA for the ninth consecutive year, which recognizes our dedication to transparency and excellence in financial management," said NCRTD Executive Director Anthony Mortillaro. "These achievements reflect the hard work and commitment of our staff and leadership to serve our community effectively."

Certificate of Achievement FOR EXCELLENCE IN Financial Reporting

Through strategic investments and innovative projects, NCRTD continues to enhance regional transit services, promote sustainability, and support community growth. With the steadfast leadership of our Board of Directors, FY 2024 marked another milestone year in achieving our mission of connecting communities through reliable, safe, and forward-thinking transit solutions.

Blue bus™

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT
1327 N RIVERSIDE DR ESPAÑOLA, NM 87532
505-629-4725 | NCRTD.ORG